

Amendments to the Claims

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector for use in an~~ An inhaler comprising a housing defining an airway; a discrete metered dose of medicament ~~optionally retained in a dose container; and a dose protector comprising~~ covering means, wherein characterized in that said covering means is in biased contact with said dose or container retaining the dose and only opens in response to at least one condition ~~airflow through~~ occurring in the airway in a first direction but not in a second, opposite direction, said at least one condition being selected from the group consisting of airflow through the airway and/or pressure drop across the airway in a first direction but not in a second, opposite direction, wherein the covering means is adapted such that on occurrence of said airflow through and/or pressure drop across the airway in the first direction said airflow and/or pressure drop at least one condition said at least one condition acts on the covering means to cause it to open.
2. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the covering means is only open in the presence of ~~airflow through and/or pressure drop across the airway in a first direction~~ the at least one condition in the first direction after which said covering means returns to a resting position.
3. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ~~airflow through and/or pressure drop across the airway presence of the at least one condition in the first direction~~ is caused by patient inhalation.
- 4-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An Inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the covering means responds by covering the dose more effectively when the ~~airflow through and/or pressure drop across the airway~~ at least one condition is in a the second direction.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 6 wherein ~~airflow through and/or pressure drop across the airway~~ presence of the at least one condition in a the second direction is caused by the patient exhaling.

8. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 where the covering means comprises one or more poppet valves, diaphragm valves, rotary valves, reciprocating valves, sealing flaps or a combination thereof.

9. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in any claim 1 wherein the dose is metered by volume of medicament or surface area.

10. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 9 wherein the dose is metered by volume into a container.

11. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 10 wherein the said container is a pocket.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dose or container retaining the dose has a surrounding rim.

13. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector for use in an~~ An inhaler comprising a housing defining an airway; a pocket ~~suitable for~~ containing a single metered dose of medicament; ~~wherein and characterized in~~ that said housing comprises at least one sealing flap in biased contact with said pocket and providing a cover for the pocket; wherein the contact between the at least one sealing flap and the pocket is broken by airflow through the airway in a first

direction but not in a second opposite direction, wherein ~~the covering means is adapted such that on occurrence of said airflow through and/or pressure drop across the airway in the first direction said airflow and/or pressure drop acts on the covering means to cause it sealing flap to uncover the pocket and the pocket to be opened open.~~

14. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sealing flap is spaced away from the pocket by the airflow once contact with the pocket is broken.

15. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 13 additionally comprising a closure mechanism wherein the at least one sealing flap is held in contact with the pocket by a closure means which prevents the contact between the at least one sealing flap and the pocket being broken by airflow through the airway in any direction.

16. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 15 wherein the pocket has a surrounding rim.

17. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 13 wherein the said sealing flap vibrates in the airflow once the contact with the pocket is broken.

18. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sealing flap is made of thermoset rubber.

19. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sealing flap is of equivalent or slightly reduced width relative to the distance between the inside walls of the housing at the base of the walls of the housing where the sealing flap is in contact with the pocket.

20. (Currently amended) ~~A dose-protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 19 wherein the distance between the inside walls of the housing increases as the distance away from the pocket increases.

21. (Currently amended) ~~A dose-protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the said covering means is spaced away from the dose ~~or container~~ ~~retaining a dose~~ to coincide with the ~~airflow through and/or pressure drop across~~ ~~presence of the~~ at least one condition in the first direction once the contact with the dose ~~or container~~ ~~retaining the dose~~ is broken.

22. (Currently amended) ~~A dose-protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the covering means vibrates in the ~~airflow through and/or pressure~~ ~~drop across the airway~~ at least one condition in the first direction.

23. (Currently amended) ~~A dose container~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the housing ~~contains~~ further comprises a valve flap such that when the airflow is in a second opposite direction, the airflow exits the housing by means of the valve flap.

24. (Currently amended) ~~A dose-protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the said covering means protects the dose from the patient exhaling into the device, moisture contamination, particulate contamination and loss of the dose or a combination thereof.

25. (Currently amended) ~~A dose-protector~~ An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising a fixed seal.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) An inhaler ~~comprising a body, a mouthpiece, and a dose protector as claimed in claim 1~~ further comprising a mouthpiece in communication with said airway.

28. (Original) An inhaler as claimed in claim 27 wherein the said inhaler is a dry powder inhaler.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) A method of administering a medicament to a patient comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a patient an inhaler as claimed in claim 27, and
- (b) administering to the patient medicament therefrom by said patient inhaling through said mouthpiece.

31. (Currently amended) ~~A dose protector for use in an~~ An inhaler comprising a housing defining an airway; a single metered dose of medicament retained in a dose container which is a pocket; and a dose protector comprising a covering means for said dose which is in the form of at least one sealing flap and which is movable from a covering position, in which it is in biased contact with the pocket and providing a cover for the pocket, and an open position, in which the contact between the at least one sealing flap and the pocket is broken, wherein the at least one sealing flap for the dose is adapted so that it is only able to move from the closed position to the open position in response to at least one condition ~~airflow through~~ occurring in the airway in a first direction but not in a second, opposite, direction, said at least one condition being selected from the group consisting of ~~airflow through the airway and/or pressure drop across the airway in a first direction but not in a second, opposite direction, wherein the covering~~ means is adapted such that on occurrence of said ~~airflow through and/or pressure drop across the airway in the first direction~~ said airflow and/or pressure

~~drop at least one condition, said at least one condition~~ acts on the covering means to cause it to open.